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The Life and surprsng [sic] adventures

Newcastle-on-Tyne

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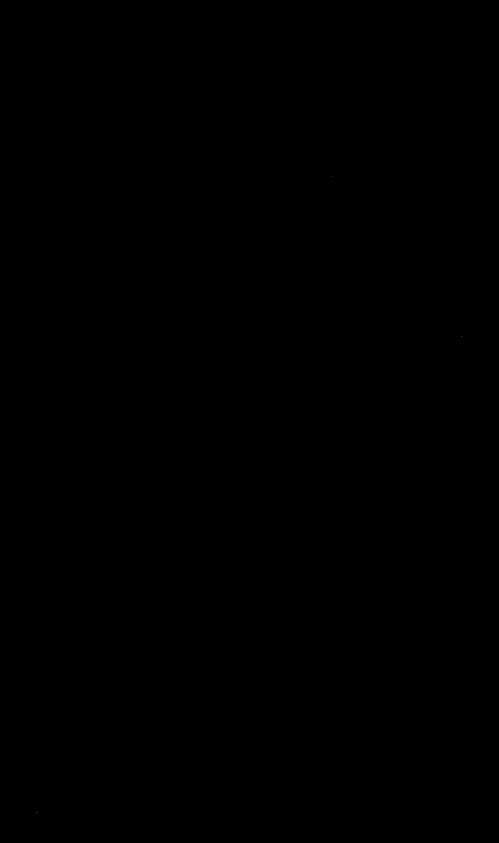
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THE LIFE

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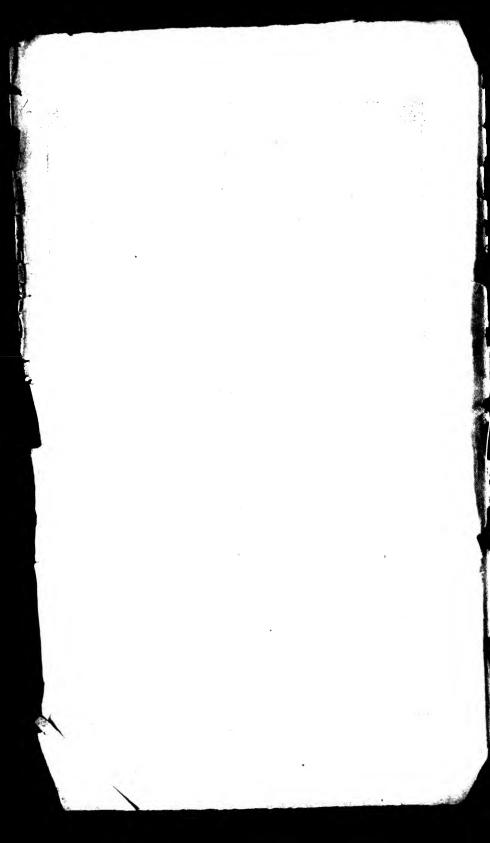
SURPRSNG ADVENTURES

OF THAT

RENOWNED HERO,
SIR WILLIAM WALLACE,



NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE:
JOHN ROSS, PRINTER & PUBLISHER.



THE HISTORY

OP

SIR WILLIAM WALLACE.

SIR WILLIAM WALLACE was a descendant of an ancient and honourable family in the west of Scotland; he was the younger son of Sir Malcolm Wallace of Ellerslie, by his wife, who was a daughter of Sir Ronald Crawford. Sheriff of Ayr. The precise period of Wallace's birth is unknown; but it is highly probable that it must have been some time before the death of Alexander III. in 1286.

The mind of Wallace, in his younger days, was directed in its progress to maturity by John Blair, a Benedictine Monk at Dundse, who was afterwards his chaplain, and lived to record his exploits.

It appears that during the early part of his life, Wallace had resided chiefly in retirement. At

what time he first emerged from the peace and improvement of private life, is uncertain; but it is presumed to be about the period of the battle of Dunbar, where the discipline of Edward's soldiers triumphed over the loose violence of the Scottish army, as much as his political finesse overcame the wisdom of the Scottish nobility in other spheres of

contention.

After the humiliation of Scotland, Wallace returned to Dundee, (if in fact he had been engaged in the war,) for the purpose of studying under the superintendence of his tutor Blair. He beheld the oppression of his countrymen with horror and indignation; he sympathized with the sufferings of individuals, and he mourned the degradation of his While these sentiments animated his native land. bosom, he was, in an accidental recounter, insulted by a young Englishman, son of Selby, the constable Though a stripling, he possessed inof Duudee. conceivable bodily strength; he overcame young Selby in a scuffle that ensued, and killed him with his dagger, in the presence of a number of his This action exposed him to the rage of the English, and compelled him to seek refuge in retirement from the punishment that would have followed Having slain all Selby's attendants who opposed his flight, and being still pursued very keenly, he went into an inn, exhausted with his ex-Wallace was instantly dressed in the attire of a female, and was busily employed twirling his distaff and humming his song, when the pursuers searched the house which they saw him enter. They were so completely outwitted by this device, that they did not discover him: and upon their retiring from the immediate pursuit, he found himself at leisure to concert and adopt measures for more effectually securing his retreat. Having left the roof of his kind hostess, he bent his steps towards the residence of a parental uncle at Dunipace.

Wallace, after a short stay with his mother at Dunipace, proceeded to Ellerslie. On their arrival. they learned from Sir Ronald Crawford, that the lady's husband and elder son had been cruelly murdered at Lechmaben, by the English, who infested and tyranized over the whole country. without control. The old lady got a promise of protection from Percy, Edward's lord-lieutenant; but Wallace scorned to accept of protection, from the hands of those men who had become the tools of that tyrant's oppressions. In this situation of his affairs, he went to live in secrecy at the house of his paternal uncle, Sir Richard Wallace, of Ricearton, where his restless and patriotic aversion to the English tyranny permitted him not long to remain. One day he went a fishing, and in the course of his pastime was interrupted by the insolent rapacity of some of Lord Percy's followers, who happened to pass the spot; where he saw the only weapon he hid was his fishing staff; with this he beat one of them to the ground, and having wrested the sword from his hand, he soon taught the crowd, by whom he was speedily assailed, that his individual strength, skill, and intrepidity, were superior to their united force: he killed several of the party, and the others fled, confounded at the matchless prowess of their single antagonist. He rode home triumphant to his uncle, on a a horse left by the persons whom he had killed or terrified; and he was now inspired with a just confidence of his own powers by these exploits. His residence with

Sin Richard now becoming very insecure, he resolved to devote his mightiest exertions, and his
life itself, to the deliverance of his country, or to
the chastisement of her oppressors; and according
ly, he destroyed as many English as came in his
way, sparing neither the dignified nor the mean.
For these noble actions he was outlawed by the
English, and compelled to live, during the most inclement seasons of the year, entirely in the open
fields, the woods and mountains; where he often
wandered, subjected to all the hardships that it is
possible for human nature to sustain; but animated
by a spirit that enabled him to bid deffance, to the
direct calamities that assailed him.

The exploits of Wullace were soon generally known, and attracted the notice of many, who, dreading the stratugems of Edward to subvert their independence, had courage to hazard their lives for the liberty of their country. At the head of such men as these, Wallace performed such exploits as posterity has surveyed with astonishment He would frequently sally out of his harking places, and with a handful of men, defeat whole multitudes. His personal strength was extraordinary, and had often been tried; but to this he did not so much trust as to stratagem. Expeditious and indefatigable cantious, though undaunted, he cluded the pursuits of his enemies, and never exposed himself to mum bers, but when certain to frustrate their endian vones, if not to triumph in their destruction. The English having proclaimed a justice meeting to be held at the town of Ayr; (June 18, 1296,) many of the neighbouring handed gentry attended, several of whom being accused of februy, were immediately condemned and executed. Among these were, Sing

Round de Crawford Sheriffor Agr. and under of Willness Sir Betwee Blain, Sir Noile Montenment and many of the barons of Kyle, Cupitinghamy Currick, and Olydesdule: This few who escaped having informed Wallace of this dreadful category phe, he, with his usual intrepidity immediately had sambled fifty his followers, secretly entened Agri in the night, and set fire to the place, where many of the English were asleep. The garrison issuing forth from the castles, fell into an ambush daid for them, and were all put to the sword as The forts being immediately seized Wallace marched next morning to Glasgow: when engaging a body of troops under Lord Henry Percy, he completely routed them, and quickly after tank the eastle of Stirling; recovered Argyle, and Lorn, with the town of St. Johnston, and the adjacent country; and continued daily, in shorts to do some signal mischief to the English and their friends of much ling through Angus and Mearns, ho arrived at Aberdeen, from which the English had just made: their escape by sea, and made him master of all the towns of consequence in the morth " Eq the meaning time Sir William Wallace was, by the majority of the king dom, elected guardian of Scotland, and vicercy in the absence of Balibla The castle of Dundee was the only place that withstood the arms of Wallace in the north, While besieging this fort, he got intelligence of the approach of the English army, commanded by John Barliof Surrey, and Sir Hugh Cressingham, and joined by many disaffect ed Scots, to the number altogether of about thirty thousand men Walluce chammaded the barghese, upon pain of death, to prosecute with vigour the siege he had begin; and he binself, with ten

thousand faithful adherents, marched towards Stirling, and encamped in an advantageous situation upon a hill, above the monastery of Cambuskenneth, on the north side of the Forth; which having no fords at that place, was passable only by a wooden bridge. The English army lay on the south of the Forth; and their generals being desirous of bringing matters to an accommodation, sent two Dominican friars with overtures of peace to Wallace. These terms, insulting, in the last degree, to the honour and independence of Scotland, were rejected with disdain. "Tell your officers, (said Wallace,) that we have not come to this place to sue for peace, that now we are ready to fight, and will immediately evince that our country still is free!" This answer irritated the English general; several of whom despising Wallace and his followers, presumptuously exclaimed, "They are all our own! let us instantly charge them." The bridge formerly mentioned, over which it behoved the army to pass, was both narrow and weak; and the Scottish carpenter, who shortly before had been employed to repair it, had, by Wallace's desire, cut the main beams of it half through, and thereby rendered it incapable of supporting a great weight. Urged by the impetuosity of Cressingham, Surrey gave orders to the army to march along the bridge; and Sir Marmaduke Twenge, a gentleman distinguished for valour and resolution, led the van, and boldly advanced at the foot of the hill, on which the Scotch had drawn up their army in order of battle. Here Wallace remained till he saw as many of the English had got over as he thought he could safely encounter; but so far from making a formidable opposition, he gradually retreated as Sir Marma-

duke advanced. The English commander pursued with vigour; but soon discovered that there was not a standard of his countrymen in his rear, while some of the Scots seemed to flee before him. the greater part having taken an unfrequented road, completely intercepted his retreat; and the bridge having broken down by the immense weight of so many armed men, vast quantities were drowned in the river. All the English who had crossed the river, to the number of six or seven thousand, were put to the sword, except Sir Marmaduke and a few, who stood on the south side of the water, and made their escape by swimming across the river. Surrey, during this time, had the galling mortification of seeing his men drowned and slain, without being able to afford them the smallest relief. As soon as Twenge joined Surrey, he advised him to set on fire the remainder part of the bridge, to prevent the victorious Scots from pursuing and harassing their disheartened army. This expedition proved of little use, for the great Steward of Scotland, and the Earl of Lennox, having previously posted them. selves in ambush, at a short distance from the English, came from behind the mountains, as soon as they ascertained the event of the day, charged the retiring Earl, put him to flight and pursued him with such vigour, that with difficulty he escaped to Berwick.

This glorious battle, so disastrous to the English army, was fought on the 13th of September. Sir Andrew Murray was the only Scotchman of note that lost his life, although many of the English commanders fell this day. This victory was evinced to be complete in its effects and consequences. No Englishman durst remain in Scotland; and all

mess had described to the English interest, now submitted to Wallace, and hailed him as the deliverer
of their country. And thus, in about fourteen
months after the king had been deposed and his kingdom subdued and obliged to own a foreign prince
as their hereditary king, did Wallace, till them a
private and obscure gentleman, unaccustomed to
martial exploits, without money or arms, but such
as he took from the enemy, and with only a handful
of men, restore the mation to its ancient liberty and

1 10 - 1 to 110 Deo

independence!

Although the plunder taken at the battle of Stirling was not inconsiderable, yet so many armies ranging in all parts of the kingdom, occasioned a great scarcity, and a general famine was seriously apprehended. To prevent this calamity, Wallace issued orders commanding all Scotsmen capable of bearing arms to be ready to join him by turns. The men thus raised were formed into regiments. and had officers appointed over them. Having thus arranged all domestic affairs, and collected as many men as he thought necessary for his purpose, he under himselfar commander appointed Andrew Murray surnamed the noble, son of Andrew Murray who shortly before fell at the battle of Stivling, and entered England on the 18th of October. The inhabitants of Northumberland, alarmed at his approuch, leaving the country defenceless, fled with their families and effects to Newcastle. Upon this Wallace and his namy balted, or rather seemed to retreat. The country people observing their retrograde motion, returned to shair houses, and were all uniquenes surprised by spinties of the Scottish army: who havaged the whole country botween Type and Derwent, for the space of imenty-three days. A budy of fresh troops advancing here to the borders, some of the former were sent home, and had the peculiar satisfaction of carrying back with them to their friends the welcome news of their various success, particularly the pleaty of food they had procured in the land of their one-mics. But Wallace did not think proper to attack them, or to push his success farther: he had already done sufficient mischief to his enemies, and had, at an easy rate obtained much glory to his country-men, and reflected distinguished lustre on the Sections.

The same of Wallace, and the splendid victories which he had gained, both in Scotland and in Hingland, spread abroad and attracted the attention of the courts of England and France. Philip the Fair, the French monarch, heard of his successes with joy ; but Edward I. king of England, observed them with decided displeasure; he felt much at being outstripped by one who he accounted his inferior. The constable and marchals of Eugland, the earls of Cloucester, Surrey, and Arundel and a great majority of earls and barons of the kingdom, agreed that a large army should be instantly raised, and that within eight days all the forces they could collect should assemble at Newcastle. This meeting took place as appointed, and the army was found to consist of four thousand five bundred cavalry and upwards of an hundred thousand infantry. The prippe and foresaid sachlemen beadell this great body, marched against the Scots, relieved the coule of Raxburgh, which Wallace was been ing) and took possession of Bornick, which the Souttish garrison had abandoned in uniquele, and

from Edward to halt, till he himself having now settled his affairs acroad, should come home, and

put an end to the disturbances in Scotland.

Edward having arrived in England on the 21st of March, immediately sent letters to Wallace, replete with insult and abuse. He to'd him that he durst not have attempted to revolt in Scotland, far less an invasion in England, had he himself been in the island, Sir William received Edward's messenger with that dignity which became his present situation, and replied, that he had more reason to take the advantage of Edward's absence to deliver his country from servitude, than he of the divisions of a free and independent people, to enslave them; he added, that he had invaded England to repay the injuries done to Scotland; that he meant to keep his Easter in the same country, and that he invited his highness to that feast. He punctually did what he had promised. Edward had a great army to support him, but Sir William's courage, which had been conspicuous all along, did not fail him here; with his usual intrepidity, he collected his chosen troops, rallied. and came in sight of the mighty monarch near Stanmore.

Edward's army appeared to the Scots to be incredibly numerous. The armour of the soldiers' glittering, the equipage of the officers' rich and elegant, and the sound of their trumpets, and noise of their drums, pompous and terrible. Yet such was the ardour and bravery of many in the Scottish army, that they requested leave from their guardian to go a pickering; and thus, by conspicuously evincing their undaunted intrepidity, to aim at the onour of knighthood. But this favour Wallace

was by no means pleased to confer: he issued a proclamation, commanding all his men, upon pain of death, to keep their ranks, to march with gravity and to attempt nothing without his orders. Edward observed and admired the order, discipline, and formidable appearance of the same enemy that he had hitherto been accustomed to despise. His own veteran and experienced soldiers had not by this time arrived from Flanders, and in this situation he thought it improper to hazard his own glory, the lives of his nobles, and the forfeiture of his claim, with an undisciplined though numerous militia, against a small but resistless army, in which every officer and every soldier acted the part of a hero. Edward therefore wisely retired, and Wallace, with no less prudence, checked the impetuous courage of his men; who, seeing the enemy retreat, were eager to follow and charge their rear. He again, upon pain of death, discharged every one from stirring from the ranks, and told his followers "that they had done enough when they had stood their ground, and kept their countenance in the presence of such a power, which one would have thought was able to have swallowed them up; that this was in effect a victory, and so much the more glorious, that they had gained it without drawing their swords." This speech being circulated through the army, had an agreeable influence upon all their minds; the officers alighted from their horses, and the whole army prostrated themselves on the ground, while according to the custom of the day, they sung the praises of St. Andrew the patron of Scotland, and returned thanks to St. Cuthbert, on whose feast, and in some measure to whose intercession, they attributed their courage to

The glery of Sir William Wallace was now at its height; and as, by numerous and gallant exploits, he had become the admiration of Europe, the terror of England, and the darling of his countrymen; so he was the object of the envy, jealousy, and fear of the nobility.

John Cummine of Badenoch, and Robert Bruce, Earl of Carrick, both of the blood royal, and of aspiring dispositions, were afraid that he would at length usurp the sovereignty, and seize upon the crown, to which they had a just and legal title. These conditions made the one join openly with the enemy, and the other to act but faintly against bim.

Thus did Scotland, by the wonderful conduct and vigilance of its Guardian, enjoy peace in the midst of war; and the people, guarded by repeated victories over their enemies, securely cultivated the formerly neglected soil, and dispersed plenty over the land; while, at the same time, the more powerful nobles, inebriated with envy and jealousy, outwardly professed all the gratitude that was due to the admired achievements of their deliverer, but secretly conspired his ruin. In order to effect this they caused rumours to be spread abroad, intimating, that he designed to usurp the crown; and that if a usurper must reign a great and mighty monarch, though a foreigner, was preferable to an upstart of yesterday.

By this time, the formidable army which Edward bad left at Flanders, was returned to England; and he, to strengthen it by the addition of all the forces which that kingdom, with Ireland and Wales,

could raise, had gratified his nobles, respecting the privileges for which they had long contended: and now their jeafousies being completely removed, they marched with him against the Scots, with courage and alacrity. To oppose this formidable power, Wallace had not above thirty thousand, including both horse and foot : yet, in that high state of discipline which they had attained, and animated with that patriotic ardour which had long marked their conduct, they would doubtless have withstood their enemies, had they been commanded by their Guardian alone; but unfortunately, two men, of acknowledged bravery indeed, but, as were the greater part of the nobility and their immediate dependants, for the reasons already noticed, his secret enemies divided with him the command.

In this position they remained at Falkirk, which is situated about eleven miles from Stirling, till the army of Edward approached on the 22nd day of July, after having reduced several castles, and penetrated thus far into the heart of the kingdom. And now was the time that the animosities which unhappily subsisted between the commanders should have been entirely banished; but, anfortunately for Scotland, this was not the case. Each of them would have the honour of going first upon the head of the van; Wallace. because he was guardian of the kingdom; Cummine, on account of his more numerous vassalage, and noval birth; and Steward, because he acted that day in the place of his brother, the Lord High Steward himself whose wassals, or military tenewts, would oher no command but what he gave them: and he is said to have stood so much upon this punctifio of honour, that he upbraided Wallace to his face;

charged him with ambition and pride, and compared him to the owl in the fable, which had nothing originally of its own, but begged a feather of every bird; and thus having acquired rich and gay plumage, pretended to beauty and superiority above all others.

It is easy to conjecture what must have been the result of a battle begun at such an unfortunate period, and in such a manner. While the fatal debate was agitated with the greatest heat, Edward, although he had that very morning got a fall from his horse, by which two of his ribs were broken, caused a charge to be sounded. The Scots were soon routed; and they lost upwards of ten thousand Sir John Cummine, with those under his command, went away without fighting at all: Sir John Steward fought bravely, and died honourably, as did all his dependants. And the Guardian, who in the beginning of the action, had just sufficient leisure to address this short speech to his men;-"I have brought you to the king, fly if you can,"did all that could be expected from the greatest commander in the world.

Thus Wallace, by the means we have already adverted to was obliged to retreat; on which account, and because of the numerous forces he brought to

the field, he was branded as the main author of all the losses which his country had sustained.

This line of conduct, however, he was soon after disposed to follow: for by Sir John Cummine's conduct, both before and after the battle, and by the conversation which he afterward had with Sir Robert Bruce, Earl of Carrick, he plainly understood that these great men were actuated by mere jealousy, a passion, of all others, the least easily checked; and that both having a view to the crown, would always oppose, at least would never heartily concur with, one who, in their apprehensions had merit and ambition enough to set it on his own head.

After the glorious victory obtained in the begining of the campaign, 1302, by the Scots, in the vicinity of Roslin, when he had reason to conclude that his country stood not so much in need of his service; it is said, in his voyage to France, he fought with, and made prisoner, the famous French pirate, Thomas de Longueville, commonly called the Red Reaver; and that he was heartly welcomed, and very much caressed by Philip the Fair.

At a time when their services were again required, Sir William Wallace and his unconquerable friends appeared again in the field, in opposition to

that irresistable army, at the head of which king Edward inarched triumphantly through, and a second time subdued nearly the whole kingdom of Scotland. King Edward had good reason to dread our hero; that prince did not think himself an absolute conqueror while he survived. Wallace was not, as others, to be awed into submission by fines, forfeitures, or threats; he therefore courted him with large and magnificent promises of honours and wealth, places and pensions—but in vain; his constant answer, both to his intimate friends, and to the emissaries of king Edward, who addressed him on the subject, was, "That he owed his life to, and would willingly lay it down for, his country; that should all Scotsmen but himself submit to the king of England, he never would; nor would he yield allegiance to any power, except the king of Scotland, his rightful sovereign."

Since, therefore, neither threats nor bribes, nor example, neither open force nor secret stratagem, could conquer the invincible soul of our undaunted hero; Edward bethought himself of the traitor Sir John Montaith; one of those in whom he placed the ment unbounded confidence, who brought a party of Englishmon upon him, as he lay concealed in the neighbourhood of Glasgow. These having

London, by order of king Edward. As this misfortune, the greatest which at this jucture could befall the kingdom of Scotland, was unexpressibly afflicting to all its sincere friends and honest defenders, so it gave joy and pleasure to all ranks of people in England.—They now imagined that the war was at an end: yet even the rabble could not but pity the hard fate of an enemy so renowned.

When he arrived in London, he was conducted. to, and Lodged in the bouse of one William Delect. in Fenchurch street. The next day he was brought. on horseback to Westminster, attended by several. knights, the mayor, sheriff, and alderman of the city, with many other persons of eminence and rank; in presence of all whom he was seated on the south bench of the great hall, and either because they wished the people to believe that he aspired to the crown of Scotland, or because it was reported that he had formerly boasted that he deserved? to wear a diadem, in that place they crowned limi with laurel, while Sir Feter Mallory impeached hims with high treason. To this charge lie boldly replied; "That a traiter he never was nor could be," to the king of England." The other crimes for which he was indicted, such as burning of towns.

storming of castles, killing the English, &c., he frankly acknowledged, but denied that they were crimes, unless mistaken loyalty to one's sovereign, with difference to whom, and in whose name he had ever acted-zeal for the just rights and liberties of one's native country, by the community of which he was created a magistrate—and resisting the encroachments of a foreign government and tyranical usurpation—shall deserve to be branded with that odious name. However these heroic virtues, were voted crimes; and the prisoner, not withstanding he had never acknowledged or submitted to the laws of England, was tried by them, and condemned to be hanged, drawn and quartered; and whilst alive, to have his bowels cut out; all which was executed with the utmost severity, or rather relentless barbarity.

It is doubtful if ever any country produced a hero similar to Wallace. Wallace, only a private gentleman, the second brother of a Scots laird, who though he had martial England to contend with, and ambitious Edward, who had spread terror in other nations by the power of his arms—wrought the salvation of his country, and rescued its liberties, its ancient rights and privileges from the else certain dustruction which brooded over them; with

few of the nobility and commonality to support him or espouse his cause, till by exploits incredible for their greatness he wrought them into a belief, that under him they would prove invincible. No man ever attempted more than he, yet none was more cautious, or better understood the arts of stratagem. Untutored himself, he taught the whole nation to be soldiers, and disciplined them so admirably, that had it been thought proper to have carried on his plan, Scotland could always have afforded at least thirty thousand men, and ready for any enterprise whatever, and that too without being chargable to the government, or depopulating the country.



THE TENNS OF SCOTE AND It is well in the capouse his cause, till by exploits many till by exploits

Mourn, hapless Caledonia, mourn, quality and Thy banish'd peace, the laurels torn! another Thy sons, for valour long renewn'd; hardinal Lie slaughter'd on their native ground; had and Invites the stranger to the door; had and In smoky ruins sunk, they lie, and print lead The monuments of cruelty.

The refer to the second of the

their greatness be wendent them into a led. I

The wretched owner sees, afar,
His all become the prey of war;
Bethinks him of his babes and wife;
Then smites his breast, and curres life.
Thy swains are famished on the rocks,
Where once they fed their wanton flocks;
Thy ravished virgins shrick in vaio;
Thy infants perish on the plain.

What boots it, then in ev'ry clims, Thro' the wide-spreading waste of time, Thy martial glory crowned with praised?
Still shone with and initial shokes and start to writing spirit now is brokes and said.
Thy neck is bended to the yoke and said.
What foreign arms could never squelly all.
By civil rage and rances felled a very said.

Weins o'er ha tender babes, and area

The rural pipe, and merry lay,
No more shall cheer the happy day:
No social scenes of gay delight
Beguile the dreary winter night:
No strains but those of sorrow flow,
And nought be heard but sounds of wee;
While the pale plantems of the slain, had
Glide nightly o'er the silent plain.

. The bonish deeper ter lauria tora

Oh painful cause, oh fatal morn,
Accurs'd to ages yet unbern!
The sons against their fathers stood;
The parent shed his children's blood
Yet, when the rage of battle ceas'd,
The victor's soul was not appeas'd;
The naked and forlorn must feel
Devouring flames and murd'ring steel!!

The pions mother doom'd to death, The Forsaken, wanders o'er the heath of a life. The bleak wind whistles round her head, I Her helpless or phass cry for bread; The helpless or phass cry for bread; The helpless or phass cry for bread; The helpless or head, I have been and friend; The views the shades of hight descend; The helpless o'er her tender babes, and dies.

Whilst the warm blood bedows my veins, And unimpair'd remembrance reigns.
Resentment of my country's fate
Within my filial breast shall beat;
And, spite of her insulting fix,
My sympathising verse shall flow.
"Mourn, helpless Caledonia, mourn,
Thy banish'd peace, thy laurels torn!"



Phy rurd pipë, and mergeley. Ne mare Pril dhe ralle hange da

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